



Virginia Department of Forestry

An Overview

Forestry Topic 40

April 2019



The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) is responsible for the protection of 15.8 million acres of forestland from fire, insects and disease; management of forests and other state lands; and public assistance through professional forestry advice and technical management programs. Forestland provides 60 percent of the land cover in the Commonwealth.

VDOF was established in 1914 to prevent and suppress forest fires and reforest bare lands. Now in its second century, VDOF strives to protect and develop healthy, sustainable forest resources for Virginians, and envisions a healthy, abundant forest resource providing economic and environmental benefits to the Commonwealth on a sustained basis. We see a resource whose scenic beauty enhances natural surroundings and whose protected environment supports clean water and wildlife. We further see a diverse forest resource as a part of natural ecosystems. We envision the economic benefits of forest industry to be in balance with the environmental values of the forest resource.



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